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CONCERNING TITHES.

TITHES

AT firſt were not required, but given, only of the ſpoyles of the Warre, (only once,) by Abraham, unto him that was made like unto the Son, but the ſubſtance being now come, (even Chriſt) who was before the Warres, and before Abraham, he redeemes out of the luſt from whence the Warres ariſeth, and ſo bringeth to an end of that from whence Warres cometh, and ſo to an end of that from whence Tithes were firſt given; and ſo to give nor pay Tithes no longer; being redeemed out of luſt, and Warres, and fightings, by the blood of Jeſus who ſaid I am the light, that abides a Prieſt for ever, and his day Abraham rejoyced to ſee, who brings to the end of the Tithes, and makes Warre with that, and ſlayes that, which cauſed Men to ſlay one another, in the Warres, who comes to ſave the life, who is greater then Abraham, who being now come; denyeth fighting. and ſaith he that taketh the Sword ſhall periſh with the Sword, and ſo that was to periſh whereby Tithes were firſt given, then muſt there needs be an end of Tithes, which alſo periſheth with the uſing, and the Law for the Tithes (which had a ſhadow of good things to come) decayes, and waxes old, and vaniſheth away, the good things themſelves being come, and good will towards Man, and the Covenant of Light to joyne the hearts together.

For Tithes were never given nor paid untill after Men had killed, and ſlaine, and done violence and wrong one to another, and Chriſt ſaith love your enemies, and if he ſmite thee on the one cheeke turn the other, and ſuch as are come to that, and obeyes his command, are come

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come out of the Warres, and the ſtrife, unto the Prince of peace, who was before the Warres, and ſo knowes the peaceable Covenant, which will not wax old, but laſt for ever, in which there is no Warres, nor killing one another, and ſo comes to the end of that Covenant which commanded the Tithes, and to the change of the Law, the Prieſt whereof and they that receive the Tithes, murdered and ſlew him that is to bring to the end of the Tithes, ſo that by him to the end they are not come, nor from under the firſt Covenant, where the Tithes is paid whileſt the vayle is over the heart, and that miniſtry ſtanding which makes nothing perfect, and will dye, and change, and periſh: but he that redeemes out of, and from among them, and that, which periſheth, abides a Preiſt for ever; and of him it is ſaid he liveth: and ſo him we beare teſtimony of, who is entred within the vaile in whom the vaile is done away, and ſo that is ſeen, and departed from, and made an end of, which ſtood whileſt the vaile was not rent, and the way into a more holy knowne, then the firſt Covenant where the Tithes were paid, the vaile being over the heart, and is yet over the hearts of all them, who pay or receive Tithes, and all that uphold it, who may take notice that the firſt Prieſts that ever tooke Tithes and offerings by force, were Sons of Beliall and know not God, whom the Lord deſtroyed, and they periſhed in the Warres, with the Sword, 1 Sam. 2. 12. verſ. 16.

Therefore we cannot but deny Tithes, and the upholding of it, and all ſuch as take it (eſpecially) by force, which actions are the fruits of ſuch Prieſts as know not God, and ſuch he will overturn.

For the ſeed of God in many thouſands, cryes unto him, by reaſon of the cruell oppreſſion of Tithes, from under which the Lord will deliver us.

Humphery Smith.

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